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MANUFACTURERS OF  
AERATED WATERS.

AERATED WATERS

of our manufacture, made under constant European supervision, are sold throughout the Far East and are invariably preferred on account of their excellence.

The Machinery in use embodies every known improvement up to date.

ABSOLUTE PURITY is guaranteed. The best materials only are used.

The PRICES are only half those charged in England.

WATERS MANUFACTURED BY US are acknowledged by the leading English makers to be equal to those of their own production.

Sir Edward Frankland, K.C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S., &c. (recently deceased), who was the most eminent authority of the day on the subject, lately reported as follows on the water as prepared and used in our factories—

"It possesses an extremely high degree of organic purity and is of most excellent quality for drinking."

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

BIRTH.  
At Tientsin, on Sunday, the 31st December, 1899, the wife of Mr. S. C. CHAN, of a daughter.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, January 15th, 1900.

ALTHOUGH from the first there could be no doubt as to the eventual result of the war in South Africa, Russia and France seem earlier than the British Government to have realised its serious nature, and recognised the fact that for a time it would be necessary to concentrate its attention on the African theatre. The opportunity presented itself as a favourable one for meddling in the Far East now that the principal maplet was otherwise engaged, and as Russia has just opened her communications with Primorsk by the completion of the Trans-Baikal section of her Pacific Railway, the hint has evidently been given to France that the moment was an opportune one for pressing her ambitions. Nothing but to enter on the suggestion of her big friends, France has been seeking to make a diversion in the south, while Russia, with a better knowledge of her own wants and looking to a speedy absorption of Korea, has in her silent and patient way, been seeking to place Japan in the wrong, so that she may enter on the coming contest untrammelled by at least diplomatic interference. Japan has committed no many mistakes diplomatic blunders they may indeed be called that the task does not seem a difficult one. As far as the continental nations are concerned, Russia's advance in Eastern Asia is looked upon with comparative indifference as a merely diplomatic matter, and hence the expatriation of Russia's desire to lead Japan into a repetition of her former mistakes. The murder of the Queen and the petty interference in the palace circle did more, for instance, to promote the advance of the former than any force of arms. In diplomacy a crime, as the witty Frenchman expressed it, is of far less moment than a blunder, and it is just this fact that lends more than ordinary importance to the present situation. It is therefore, the more satisfactory that the nations which have immensely the largest interests in the Pacific, England and the United States, are under the bonds of a common interest growing increasingly nearer. The occupation by the United States of the Philippines has enlarged their interest in what to us is the Far East, and we find, to her credit, America is taking up, during her pre-occupation elsewhere, the part hitherto regarded as exclusively England's own. It is an indication of this feeling of a common interest that we have with satisfaction the part played by Mr. Hay in endeavouring to bring together into common accord the leading nations in their Chinese policy. The "Open Door" is, unfortunately, one of those sounding expressions which, having little intrinsic meaning, have been loaned to a different and an unwelcome use. Russia's idea of an open door is, in fact, a very much to a policy which will facilitate the entrance of Russia. This is simple, and simple that Russia has no difficulty in adopting the phrase, and in making use of it, preparing to utilize it in Korea. With France the idea of an open door is a little more confined, implying, logically, the violation of all other doors, but one, yet which

France would stand as an ideal sentinel. Japan has displayed a yet further side of an open door, which should admit of Japanese concessions everywhere. She complacently, as the result of her open door, exhibits a collection of subsidised colonies, and pensioned residents. It is but natural that these Powers should have been ready, as long as the "Open Door" remains merely an expression of diplomatic language, to concede with their approval so suggestive a word. What Mr. Hay's own idea of the "Open Door" may be, we have as yet not the means of discovering. So far as the Government of the United States has hitherto declared its policy to be a generous one, and one which will commend itself to Englishmen, but this will scarcely be looked upon as a recommendation elsewhere, and it is this fact that leads us to cast some doubt on the endorsement with which our very good friends, and especially Russia and France, have received the suggestion. It is, in all events, well to remember that Russia has been assiduously engaged in strengthening her military position in Eastern Siberia to an extent hardly called for by merely defensive purposes. The military occupation of Port Arthur could in itself hardly be accepted as a merely defensive step, but the occupation is only one of a series. Vladivostok has been converted into an arsenal of the first class and bristles with troops, and Vladivostok is only the last of a closely connected chain. The so-called Volunteer Fleet has been assiduously carrying troops for the last three years, at first nominally as emigrants, but lately, without any pretence to concealment, as troops from European Russia to strengthen and raise the tone of the Asiatic troops sent overland to the eastern seaboard. Meanwhile, quietly and unobtrusively, the Siberian Railway has been advanced, till within the last few days we got the unexpected intelligence that the Trans-Baikal section has been completed—a work not contemplated, we have been told, for three years. These are certainly not needed for defence; they are hardly required in assertion of Russia's position as a nation, and bear on their face the ugly expression of being intended for aggressive purposes. Altogether Mr. B. Hay's suggestions have not come without reason; never was an understanding between England and the United States needed. The Pacific question has, in fact, come to be the great problem of the twentieth century, and it behoves the two great nations most largely interested to be well grounded and work with a common understanding.

From the special telegram in this morning's issue it will be seen that H.I.H. the Czar of Russia has issued a Rescript, in which he pays a special tribute to the work of Count MURAVIEFF for the success attending his negotiations in bringing about satisfactory understandings with Great Britain and Japan in Far Eastern affairs. This statement is complemented for having secured without conflict with the two other Powers the position which Russia today occupies in Manchuria. He is thanked for having obtained in so masterly a manner the "lease" of Port Arthur and Tielouwan, which strategically are of much value and strength, and are free from that disadvantage that prevented Vladivostok from becoming a first-class naval base of being ice-bound during the winter months. In addition, their value is further emphasized by their position, protecting as they do the vast shores of Eastern Manchuria which Russia has practically acquired which is soon to be traversed by a railway connecting those ports with the Trans-Siberian line. Truly the victories of peace are oftentimes more renowned than war, and to Count MURAVIEFF belongs a peaceful victory, and well deserving it, he of the laurels accorded him. It is to be hoped that his removal of misunderstandings between the three Powers will prove in the future neither derogatory to the interests and dignity of Great Britain or Japan. The results in the past have not always harmonized with Russian interpretations on that point. Count MURAVIEFF comes of a family that has played a distinguished part in Russian history. He was born in 1845, and entered the Diplomatic Service, early in life being appointed Secretary to the Russian Embassy in Berlin in 1864. He was at Stockholm, Berlin later, and Paris, and, in consequence of his high official entanglements, he was appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs in January, 1897, succeeding Prince LOMONOSOFF.

A children's performance at Shanghai recently, organized by Mrs. Peterson, of the Shanghai Public School, realized \$388 for the Patriotic Fund.

The many friends of Mr. N. P. Pok, until recently Austro-Hungarian Vice Consul at this port, says the Shanghai Mercury, will be pleased to learn that he has been promoted to the office of Austro-Hungarian Consul at Shanghai.

It is stated that the American Frigate "Oregon," which was loaned to the United States, is under the bonds of a common interest growing increasingly nearer. The occupation by the United States of the Philippines has enlarged their interest in what to us is the Far East, and we find, to her credit, America is taking up, during her pre-occupation elsewhere, the part hitherto regarded as exclusively England's own. It is an indication of this feeling of a common interest that we have with satisfaction the part played by Mr. Hay in endeavouring to bring together into common accord the leading nations in their Chinese policy.

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Mr. Payton, Russian Minister to Korea, has arrived at Shanghai.

General Warren, in command of the 5th Division, is co-operating with General Buller.

General French has executed a brilliant movement at Colenso, cutting off the enemy's retreat into the Orange Free State.

It is rumored at Durban that Lady Smith has been relieved, though nothing official to that effect has been reported.

RUSSIAN IMPERIAL RESCRIPT ON THE FAR EAST.

The Czar has issued a Rescript in which he compliments Count MURAVIEFF (Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs) on the realization of the traditional tendency of Russia to obtain an ice-free port in the Far East.

SUCCESS OF SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS.

Russia's subsequent negotiations with Great Britain and Japan have resulted in the partial understandings removing misunderstandings and enabling Russia to develop the prosperity of her Oriental possessions.

DEPARTURE OF LONDON VOLUNTEERS.

Five hundred of the City of London Volunteers departed yesterday for South Africa amid enthusiastic scenes.

LORD ROBERTS REPORTS NO CHANGE.

Lord Roberts advised yesterday that there was no change.

RECOGNISANCE BY GENERAL FRENCH.

General French made a reconnaissance on the 10th inst., but was unable to outflank the enemy.

RECOGNISANCE BY GENERAL METHUEN.

General Methuen's cavalry made a reconnaissance, returning on the 11th inst., having gone twenty-five miles into the Orange Free State, but found the country clear of the enemy excepting patrols.

REUTERS SERVICE.

London, 14th January.

GENEROUS OFFER BY LORD STRATHCONA.

Lord Strathcona, 400 mounted Canadian has been loaned.

GERMANY'S NEUTRALITY.

Krupp has been requested to assist Germany in the supply of shells to England, since such would be incompatible with Germany's neutrality.

DEATH OF THE EARL OF AVA.

The death of the Earl of Ava is confirmed.

VOLUNTEER GAZETTE SERVICE.

London, 14th January.

DEPARTURE OF THE CITY IMPERIAL VOLUNTEERS.

The first detachment of the City Imperial Volunteers left London amidst enthusiastic scenes.

THE QUALITIES OF LADY SMITH.

The noble qualities of the Lieutenant General Lady Smith are discussed in the first issue of the "Daily Press."

THE TESSARS RESCRIPT.

The Tessa's Rescript to Count MURAVIEFF is discussed in the first issue of the "Daily Press."

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THE INTEREST IN THE FORTHCOMING RACE MEETING.

The interest in the forthcoming race meeting is not so keen, up to the present time at least, as it has been in previous years, and as a result, the attendance at the course in the early morning is meagre.

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THE BIRMINGHAM FINANCE.

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THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.

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